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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant: Donald E. Weder**

**Atty. Docket No. 8403.888**

**Application No.: Not Yet Assigned**

**Art Unit: 3644**

**Filed: Herewith**

**Examiner: F. Palo**

**For: METHOD OF COVERING A POTTED PLANT**

**Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements
2. ☒ FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)
3. ☒ Statements as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information not listed in PTO 1449 (Modified))
4. ☒ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement
6. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making this Information Disclosure Statement

## **Section 1. Preliminary Statements**

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

## **Section 2. Form PTO-1449 (Modified)**

☒ [X] A completed Form 1449 (Modified) is attached hereto.

☐ [ ] No Form 1449 (Modified) is attached.

## **Section 3. Statements as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information not listed in PTO 1449 (Modified))**

Plant sleeves are old in the art. Plant sleeves typically are constructed of polymer film or paper. Plant sleeves generally are tapered (trapezoidally shaped) with an open top and an open bottom, although some have a closed bottom. A plant in a pot is placed in the plant sleeve so that the sleeve covers the pot and the plant. In some instances, an upper portion of the plant sleeve is removable along a line of perforations leaving at least a portion of the sleeve around the pot. In some instances, a separate sheet of material is placed about the pot and the remaining bottom portion of the plant sleeve holds this separate sheet of material in place. Alternatively, a floral grouping alone may be placed within the sleeve. It is also known to put potted plants in grocery bags.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material about a flower pot and then place an elastic band around the sheet of material to hold the sheet in place about the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned about the outer surface of the pot with the sheet of material positioned between the band and the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned

above the upper end of the pot thereby causing a portion of the sheet of material to be forced inwardly over the upper end of the pot.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material into a conically shaped tube like member referred to commonly in the art as a sleeve. A floral grouping or flower pot with flowers therein can be disposed through the larger open end of the sleeve, wherein the sleeve covers the floral grouping or the flower pot and extends above and around the flowers in the floral grouping or flower pot.

It is also old in the art that cut flowers have been wrapped with the following materials or combinations of materials:

1. Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper with the flowers being placed next to the waxed paper or tissue paper.
2. Kraft paper plus newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue with the flowers being placed next to the waxed or unwaxed tissue. These three materials have been used to wrap flowers in various combinations such as Kraft paper plus newspaper or Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper or newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper.
3. Waxed or unwaxed tissue paper, polymer films and Kraft paper (treated for water resistance or wet strength or untreated).
4. Polymer film and waxed tissue paper.

**Section 4. Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted**

This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. 10/278,690, filed on October 21, 2002 (date).

*(complete the following, if applicable)*

- [ ] This application also relies, under 35 U.S.C. 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

The references that were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) are not required to be provided in this application; however, the prior art references listed below were not cited previously in the prior application(s) and copies are provided herewith:

Foreign Patent Or Published Foreign Patent Application: Denmark - 1,204,647.

Other Materials: WEDER ET AL., "Sleeve with a Triangular Lower End", U.S. Patent Application Publication, Pub. No. US 2002/0112401 A1, Pub. Date: 08/22/2002.

### **Section 5. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement**

Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.

- ☒ Exception(s) to above:
- ☒ Items in prior application from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
- ☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

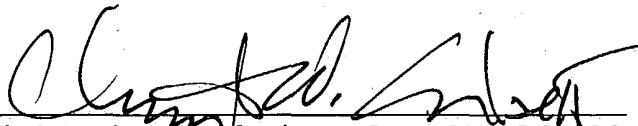
### **Section 6. Identification of Person(s) Making this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The person making this statement is the attorney who signs below on the basis of the information:

- ☒ supplied by the inventor(s)
- ☐ supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).

[X] in the attorney's file

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

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Agent for Applicant

**FORM PTO-1449**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

Attorney's Docket Number

**8403.888**

Serial Number

**Not Yet Assigned**

(Fill-A-Form 7.92)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant **Donald E. Weder**

Filing Date **Herewith**

Group

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAM<br>INIT. |    | PATENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE      | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------|----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|               | AA |               | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 08/07/1894 | Schmidt       |       |          |                               |
|               | AB |               | 7 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 07/07/1903 | Paver         |       |          |                               |
|               | AC |               | 9 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 03/01/1910 | Pene          |       |          |                               |
|               | AD | 1             | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 11/12/1912 | Schloss       |       |          |                               |
|               | AE | 1             | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 05/27/1913 | Bergen        |       |          |                               |
|               | AF | 1             | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 02/27/1923 | Hughes        |       |          |                               |
|               | AG | 1             | 5 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 12/23/1924 | Hennigan      |       |          |                               |
|               | AH | 1             | 5 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 02/03/1925 | Weeks         |       |          |                               |
|               | AI | 1             | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 12/14/1926 | Bouchard      |       |          |                               |
|               | AJ | 1             | 6 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 01/01/1929 | Blake         | 229   | 87       |                               |
|               | AK | 1             | 7 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 01/18/1929 | Snyder        |       |          |                               |
|               | AL | 1             | 8 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 03/14/1930 | Barrett       |       |          |                               |
|               | AM | 1             | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 06/14/1932 | Wordingham    |       |          |                               |
|               | AN | 1             | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 10/30/1934 | Herrlinger    | 91    | 68       |                               |
|               | AO | 2             | 0 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 07/21/1936 | Howard        | 229   | 87       |                               |
|               | AP | R             | E | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 05/02/1939 | Copeman       | 93    | 2        |                               |
|               | AQ | 2             | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 08/22/1939 | Lane          | 206   | 56       |                               |
|               | AR | 2             | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 05/07/1940 | Bensel        | 229   | 1.5      |                               |
|               | AS | 2             | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 04/07/1942 | Savada et al. | 154   | 43       |                               |
|               | AT | 2             | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 11/17/1942 | Rothfuss      | 41    | 10       |                               |
|               | AU | 2             | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 07/06/1943 | Amberg        | 229   | 53       |                               |
|               | AV | 2             | 3 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 08/08/1944 | Renner        | 229   | 8        |                               |
|               | AW | 2             | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 03/20/1945 | Freiberg      | 206   | 46       |                               |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAM<br>INIT. |     | PATENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE           | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------|-----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|               | BA  | 2             | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 11/19/1946 | MacNab             | 33    | 12       |                               |
|               | BB  | 2             | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 06/06/1950 | Leander            | 117   | 122      |                               |
|               | BC  | 2             | 5 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 11/07/1950 | Trillich           | 117   | 68.5     |                               |
|               | BD  | 2             | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 12/09/1952 | Wetherell          | 154   | 117      |                               |
|               | BE  | 2             | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 08/11/1953 | Linda              | 229   | 55       |                               |
|               | BF  | 2             | 6 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 09/07/1954 | Berger             | 150   | 28       |                               |
|               | BG  | 2             | 7 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 12/18/1956 | Smithers           | 47    | 41       |                               |
|               | BH  | 2             | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 02/04/1958 | Avery              | 117   | 14       |                               |
|               | BI  | 2             | 8 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 08/05/1958 | Yount              | 206   | 58       |                               |
|               | BJ  | 2             | 8 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 09/09/1958 | Eubank Jr.         | 47    | 58       |                               |
|               | BK  | 2             | 8 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 04/21/1959 | Borin              | 21    | 56       |                               |
|               | BL  | 2             | 9 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 06/27/1961 | Warp               | 53    | 390      |                               |
|               | BM  | 3             | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 02/27/1962 | Reynolds           | 47    | 58       |                               |
|               | BN  | 3             | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 03/12/1963 | Reynolds           | 47    | 37       |                               |
|               | BO  | 3             | 0 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 06/25/1963 | Kalpin             | 47    | 37       |                               |
|               | BP  | 3             | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 02/18/1964 | Harris et al.      | 118   | 202      |                               |
|               | BQ  | 3             | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 04/21/1964 | Silman             | 161   | 97       |                               |
|               | BR  | 3             | 2 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 08/27/1963 | Questel            |       |          |                               |
|               | BS  | 3             | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 09/13/1966 | Wallerstein et al. | 53    | 3        |                               |
|               | BT  | 3             | 3 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 05/02/1967 | Cartwright, Jr.    |       |          |                               |
|               | BU  | 3             | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 05/30/1967 | Bush               | 229   | 62       |                               |
|               | BV  | 3             | 3 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 04/09/1968 | Leonard            | 47    | 41       |                               |
|               | BW  | 3             | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 04/30/1968 | Doyen et al.       | 229   | 57       |                               |
|               | BX  | 3             | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 03/11/1969 | Stuck              | 53    | 390      |                               |
|               | BY  | 3             | 5 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 04/28/1970 | Wallerstein et al. | 53    | 3        |                               |
|               | BZ  | 3             | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 05/05/1970 | Sanni et al.       | 229   | 66       |                               |
|               | BZA | 3             | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 05/19/1970 | Evans et al.       | 229   | 53       |                               |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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|---------------|-----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|               | CA  | 3             | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 12/29/1970 | Remke et al.    | 47    | 37       |                               |
|               | CB  | 3             | 5 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 01/05/1971 | Moore           | 47    | 41.12    |                               |
|               | CC  | 3             | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 01/12/1971 | Anderson        | 229   | 55       |                               |
|               | CD  | 3             | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 01/19/1971 | Gregoire        | 229   | 53       |                               |
|               | CE  | 3             | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 01/26/1971 | Brandt          | 53    | 14       |                               |
|               | CF  | 3             | 6 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 11/16/1971 | Parkinson       | 206   | 59       |                               |
|               | CG  | 3             | 6 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 08/01/1972 | Milutin         | 117   | 15       |                               |
|               | CH  | 3             | 7 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10/23/1973 | Bachman et al.  | 229   | 7        |                               |
|               | CI  | 3             | 7 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 02/26/1974 | Howe            | 53    | 32       |                               |
|               | CJ  | 3             | 8 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 03/11/1975 | Matsumoto       | 47    | 34.11    |                               |
|               | CK  | 3             | 8 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 06/10/1975 | Flanigen        | 248   | 152      |                               |
|               | CL  | 3             | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 06/08/1976 | Crawford        | 428   | 40       |                               |
|               | CM  | 4             | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 08/23/1977 | Stonehocker     | 47    | 66       |                               |
|               | CN  | 4             | 0 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 10/18/1977 | Reed et al.     | 428   | 40       |                               |
|               | CO  | 4             | 0 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 05/30/1978 | Griffo et al.   | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | CP  | 4             | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 09/12/1978 | Soja et al.     | 206   | 602      |                               |
|               | CR  | 4             | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 10/10/1978 | Shore           | 47    | 28       |                               |
|               | CQ  | 4             | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 04/17/1979 | Hall et al.     | 47    | 67       |                               |
|               | CS  | 4             | 1 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 02/26/1980 | Tymchuck et al. | 47    | 84       |                               |
|               | CT  | 4             | 2 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 08/12/1980 | Weder et al.    | 47    | 72       |                               |
|               | CU  | 4             | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 02/03/1981 | Trimbee         | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | CV  | 4             | 2 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 05/05/1981 | Gorewitz        | 47    | 26       |                               |
|               | CW  | D             | 2 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 05/26/1981 | Charbonneau     | D9    | 306      |                               |
|               | CX  | 4             | 2 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 07/28/1981 | Stuck           | 53    | 241      |                               |
|               | CZ  | 4             | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 11/03/1981 | Weder           | 47    | 72       |                               |
|               | CZA | 4             | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 06/08/1982 | Witte           | 47    | 84       |                               |
|               | CZB | 4             | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 09/07/1982 | Wood            | 47    | 73       |                               |



## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAM<br>INIT. |     | PATENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE         | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|---------------|-----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|               | DA  | 4             | 3 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 04/19/1983 | Cancio et al.    | 428   | 167      |                               |
|               | DB  | 4             | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 08/30/1983 | Koudstall et al. | 47    | 84       |                               |
|               | DC  | 4             | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 11/08/1983 | Bruno et al.     | 206   | 45.33    |                               |
|               | DD  | 4             | 5 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 04/02/1985 | Catrambone       | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | DE  | D             | 2 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 06/18/1985 | Wagner           | D11   | 143      |                               |
|               | DF  | 4             | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 10/15/1985 | Zweber           | 206   | 0.82     |                               |
|               | DG  | 4             | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 11/11/1986 | Harris           | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | DH  | 4             | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 02/03/1987 | Stuck            | 53    | 390      |                               |
|               | DI  | 4             | 7 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 01/05/1988 | Roan et al.      | 383   | 120      |                               |
|               | DJ  | 4             | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 03/29/1988 | Weder et al.     | 53    | 580      |                               |
|               | DK  | 4             | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 08/23/1988 | Ristvedt         | 206   | 0.82     |                               |
|               | DL  | 4             | 7 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 09/20/1988 | Stengel          | 47    | 67       |                               |
|               | DM  | 4             | 7 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 09/27/1988 | Weder et al.     | 47    | 72       |                               |
|               | DN  | 4             | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 01/31/1989 | Meadows          | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | DO  | 4             | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 03/07/1989 | Castel           | 383   | 105      |                               |
|               | DP  | 4             | 8 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 06/06/1989 | Weder            | 29    | 525      |                               |
|               | DQ  | D             | 3 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 1 | 07/04/1989 | Van Sant         | D11   | 149      |                               |
|               | DR  | 4             | 9 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 02/13/1990 | Colten et al.    | 156   | 291      |                               |
|               | DS  | 4             | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 07/07/1990 | Matyja           | 383   | 10       |                               |
|               | DT  | 4             | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 07/17/1990 | Harris           | 206   | 423      |                               |
|               | DU  | 4             | 9 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 12/25/1990 | Hill             | 428   | 34.1     |                               |
|               | DV  | 4             | 9 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 02/05/1991 | Weder et al.     | 53    | 397      |                               |
|               | DW  | D             | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 03/26/1991 | Stephens         | D11   | 151      |                               |
|               | DX  | 5             | 0 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 12/17/1991 | Weder et al.     | 493   | 154      |                               |
|               | DY  | 5             | 0 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 12/24/1991 | Osgood           | 383   | 122      |                               |
|               | DZ  | 5             | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11/1991    | Stehouwer        |       |          |                               |
|               | DZA | 5             | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 04/21/1992 | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|               | DZB | 5             | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6/1992     | Ottenwalder      |       |          |                               |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| XAM<br>VIT. |    | PATENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE           | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|-------------|----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|             | EA | 5             | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 05/12/1992 | Weder              | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | EB | 5             | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 06/09/1992 | Weder              | 156   | 212      |                               |
|             | EC | 5             | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10/06/1992 | Weder et al.       | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | ED | 5             | 1 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 01/26/1993 | Weder              | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | EE | 5             | 1 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 04/06/1993 | Weder et al.       | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | EF | 5             | 2 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 04/27/1993 | Weder et al.       | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | EG | D             | 3 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 04/27/1993 | Ottenwalder et al. | D11   | 164      |                               |
|             | EH | 5             | 2 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 07/20/1993 | de Klerk et al.    | 47    | 41.01    |                               |
|             | EI | 5             | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 08/17/1993 | Landau             | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | EJ | 5             | 2 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 08/31/1993 | Landau             | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | EK | 5             | 2 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 10/05/1993 | Stuck              | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | EL | 5             | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 11/09/1993 | Weder et al.       | 29    | 469.5    |                               |
|             | EM | 5             | 3 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 05/03/1994 | Weder              | 53    | 410      |                               |
|             | EN | 5             | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 05/31/1994 | Avôt et al.        | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | EO | 5             | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 09/27/1994 | Billman et al.     | 383   | 104      |                               |
|             | EP | 5             | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 10/11/1994 | Stepanek           | 53    | 461      |                               |
|             | EQ | 5             | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 11/08/1994 | Weder et al.       | 29    | 469      |                               |
|             | ER | 5             | 3 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 02/14/1995 | Gilbert            | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | ES | 5             | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 04/04/1995 | Weder et al.       | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | ET | 5             | 4 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 08/22/1995 | Landau             | 156   | 191      |                               |
|             | EU | 5             | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 9 | 02/27/1996 | Weder et al.       | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | EV | 5             | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 03/05/1996 | Cheng              | 493   | 224      |                               |
|             | EW | 5             | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 03/05/1996 | Gilbert            | 493   | 224      |                               |
|             | EX | D             | 3 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 03/19/1996 | Sekerak et al.     | D9    | 305      |                               |
|             | EY | 5             | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 06/18/1996 | Weder              | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | EZ | 5             | 5 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 09/03/2001 | Shaffer et al.     | 206   | 575      |                               |

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| XAM<br>NIT. |     | PATENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | ISSUE DATE | PATENTEE         | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF<br>APPROPRIATE |
|-------------|-----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
|             | FA  | 5             | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 11/12/1996 | Weder et al.     | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FB  | 5             | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 11/12/1996 | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FC  | 5             | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 11/19/1996 | Weder et al.     | 53    | 397      |                               |
|             | FD  | 5             | 6 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 04/08/1997 | Weder            | 53    | 413      |                               |
|             | FE  | 5             | 6 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 04/29/1997 | Martinez         | 472   | 51       |                               |
|             | FF  | 5             | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 05/06/1997 | Weder            |       |          |                               |
|             | FG  | 5             | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 07/15/1997 | Gilbert          | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | FH  | 5             | 6 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 07/15/1997 | Weder et al.     | 53    | 465      |                               |
|             | FI  | 5             | 7 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 01/1998    | Alcazar          | 47    | 65.7     |                               |
|             | FJ  | 5             | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 02/10/1998 | Windisch         | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | FK  | 5             | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 04/1998    | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FL  | 5             | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 06/1998    | Weder            |       |          |                               |
|             | FM  | 5             | 8 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 09/1988    | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FN  | D             | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 01/26/1999 | Shea             | D11   | 164      |                               |
|             | FO  | 5             | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 07/1999    | Hodge            | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | FP  | 5             | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 08/1999    | Weder            | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | FQ  | 5             | 9 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 10/1999    | Ferguson         | 47    | 41.01    |                               |
|             | FR  | 5             | 9 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 11/02/1999 | Chien            | 47    | 41.01    |                               |
|             | FS  | 6             | 0 | 0 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 01/2000    | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FT  | D             | 4 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 01/25/2000 | Celtorius et al. | D9    | 305      |                               |
|             | FU  | 6             | 0 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 04/2000    | Weder            | 53    | 399      |                               |
|             | FV  | D             | 4 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 05/16/2000 | Ferguson         | D11   | 143      |                               |
|             | FW  | 6             | 0 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 08/08/2000 | Ferguson         | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | FX  | 6             | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 10/10/2000 | Ferguson         | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | FY  | 6             | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 10/10/2000 | Tchira           | 206   | 423      |                               |
|             | FZ  | 6             | 1 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 11/07/2000 | Weder            | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | FZA | 6             | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 02/2001    | Weder            | 47    | 72       |                               |
|             | FZB | 6             | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 02/06/2001 | Weder            | 47    | 72       |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

| XAM<br>NIT. |     | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY OR PATENT<br>OFFICE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|-------------|-----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|             |     |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |                  |                             |       |          | YES         | NO |
|             | GA  | 4               | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 06/21/1979       | Australia                   |       |          |             |    |
|             | GB  |                 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 01/02/1965       | Belgium                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GC  | 1               | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 09/09/1970       | Denmark                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GD  | 0               | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 05/05/1982       | EPO                         |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GE  | 0               | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 08/27/1997       | EPO                         |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GH  | 1               | 3 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 09/14/1964       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GI  | 2               | 0 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 12/24/1970       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GJ  | 2               | 1 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12/29/1972       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GK  | 2               | 2 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 12/26/1975       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GL  | 2               | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 03/05/1982       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GM  | 2               | 5 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 8 | 07/05/1984       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GN  | 2               | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 03/04/1989       | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GO  | 2               | 6 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 08/12/1988       | France*(see FN below)       |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GP  | 2               | 6 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 03/1989          | France                      |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GQ  |                 |   | 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 06/02/1900       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GR  |                 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 12/12/1921       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GS  |                 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 11/27/1930       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GT  | 1               | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 03/26/1964       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GU  | 1               | 9 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 06/24/1971       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GV  | 2               | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 11/04/1971       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GW  | 2               | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 05/03/1979       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GX  | 3               | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 06/19/1986       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GY  | 3               | 8 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 05/18/1989       | Germany                     |       |          |             | X  |
|             | GZ  | 3               | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 10/25/1990       | Germany                     |       |          | X           |    |
|             | GZA |                 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 04/30/1996       | Italy                       |       |          | X           |    |

## FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION

| EXAM<br>NIT. |    | DOCUMENT NUMBER |   |   |   |   |   |   | PUBLICATION DATE | COUNTRY OR PATENT<br>OFFICE | CLASS | SUBCLASS | Translation |    |
|--------------|----|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
|              |    |                 |   |   |   |   |   |   |                  |                             |       |          | YES         | NO |
|              | HA |                 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 02/23/1993       | Japan                       |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HB | 6               | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 05/10/1994       | Japan                       |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HC | 8               | - | 1 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 01/23/1996       | Japan                       |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HD | 1               | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 01/05/1996       | Netherlands                 |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HE | 8               | 3 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 12/1984          | Netherlands                 |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HF | 9               | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 08/19/1993       | PCT                         |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HG | 9               | 7 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 04/10/1997       | PCT                         |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HH |                 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 04/15/1975       | Switzerland                 |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HI |                 |   |   | 5 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 05/06/1885       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HJ | 2               | 0 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 03/18/1981       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HK | 2               | 0 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 11/04/1981       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HL | 2               | 1 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 04/26/1984       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HM | 2               | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 10/12/1988       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HN | 2               | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 07/19/1989       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |
|              | HO | 2               | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 08/19/1992       | United Kingdom              |       |          | X           |    |

| EXAM<br>NIT. |    | OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|              |    | (Include name of Author (In CAPITAL LETTERS), Title of the Article (when appropriate), Title of the Item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) Date, Relevant Pages, Volume-Issue Number(s), Publisher, City and/or Country where Published. **Place of publication. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IA | Speed Cover Brochure, "The Simple Solution For Those Peak Volume Periods", Highland Supply Corporation, ©1989.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IB | "Speed Sheets and Speed Rolls" Brochure, Highland Supply Corporation, ©1990.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IC | "Color Them Happy with Highlander Products" ©1992.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | ID | "Costa Keeps the Christmas Spirit", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IE | "Super Seller", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IF | "Halloween", Link Magazine, September 1992.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IG | "Now More Than Ever", Supermarket Floral, September 15, 1992.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|              | IH | Le Plant Sac Advertisement, published prior to September 26, 1987.   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| EXAM<br>INIT.   | OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS  |                 |
|---|--|-----------------|
| (Include name of Author (In CAPITAL LETTERS), Title of the Article (when appropriate), Title of the Item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) Date, Relevant Pages, Volume-Issue Number(s), Publisher, City and/or Country where Published. **Place of publication.  |  |                 |
| II  | "A World of Cut Flower and Pot Plant Packaging" Brochure, Klerk's Plastic Products Manufacturing, Inc., published prior to March 31, 1994, 6 pages.  |                 |
| IJ  | Chantler & Chantler brochure showing Zipper Sleeve™ and Florasheet®, published prior to March 31, 1994, 2 pages.   |                 |
| IK  | "Stand Alone Plastic Bagmaking" brochure, AMI, Atlanta, GA, February 15, 1996, 2 pages.  |                 |
| IL  | "Foil Jackets" brochure, Custom Medallion, Inc., December, 1996, 2 pages.  |                 |
| IM  | "Derwent Abstract" of FR 2610604A. It is noted that the abstract is an incorrect English translation of the contents of the French patent. The French patent does not enable or disclose adhesively attaching the covering to the container. 1988.   |                 |
| IN  | "Silver Linings" Brochure, Affinity Diversified Industries, Inc., 1986. The Silver Linings brochure shows a floral sleeve with a closed bottom. The brochure shows, in one embodiment, a vase with flowers inside a "cut flower" sleeve with the sleeve tied with a ribbon about the neck of the vase. |                 |
| IO  | "Special Occasion Printed Highlophane Bags" Brochure, Highland Supply Corporation, 1990, 2 pages.  |                 |
| IP  | "Creative Packaging" Brochure, John Henry Company, Sept. 1992.   |                 |
| IQ  | "Make Highlander Your Headquarters" Brochure, Highland Supply Corporation, 1991.   |                 |
| IR  | WEDER ET AL., "Sleeve with a Triangular Lower End", U.S. Patent Application Publication, Pub. No. US 2002/0112401 A1, Pub. Date: 08/22/2002.   |                 |
| EXAMINER  |  | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **Place of Publication refers to name of publication in which the information was published. |  |                 |